

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



Air Power

Quote of the Week

"If we lose the war in the air we lose the war and lose it quickly."

— Field Marshal
Bernard Montgomery

Vol. 50, No. 40

www.laughlin.af.mil

Oct. 18, 2002



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Fixing it up...

Carl Molly, 47th Maintenance Directorate aircraft mechanic, installs navigational equipment on a T-38 Talon in Hangar 2 Thursday.

Base plans activities for Red-Ribbon Week

By Airman 1st Class

Yvonne Conde

Staff writer

In support of the nationwide Red-Ribbon campaign for drug awareness, education and prevention, Laughlin will sponsor a series of activities to focus on the destructive effects of drugs Wednesday through Oct. 31.

The target population for Red-Ribbon Week is the youth, so most of the activities will be conducted at the youth center, said Anthony McKinney, 47th Medical Operations Squadron drug demand reduction program manager.

"There will be a poster contest, a pledge puppy to sign and other fun giveaways to support the Red-Ribbon campaign," he said.

According to McKinney, the week symbolizes the continuing commitment to reduce the demand of illicit drugs. Wearing a red ribbon represents an individual's pledge toward a drug-free America.

After Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena of the Drug Enforcement Administration lost his life in the fight against drugs, Americans began to wear red ribbons in commemoration of his sacrifice.

In 1988, The National Family Partnership took the Red Ribbon celebration nationwide to spread the anti-drug message.

"The goal is to prevent drug abuse in the community through drug awareness education," said McKinney. "This program encourages base leadership, parents, teachers and clergy an opportunity to educate their families, neighbors, coworkers and others to support drug-abuse prevention.

"When family members are doing well, it is much easier for active-duty members to give their best to the Air Force mission."

Red ribbons are available at the life skills clinic.

For more information about drug abuse and prevention and Red-Ribbon activities, please call 298-6422.

Airmen gear up for annual canned food drive

By Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein

Editor

Laughlin enlisted members have set out to help the less fortunate again this year with the Enlisted Dormitory Canned Food Drive 2002, which lasts from Nov. 4 till Nov. 18.

The annual drive collects food to be given to the Bethel Center, a ministry of 12 congregations and volunteers from the community working

together to help people in need, who then distributes it to the needy.

Last year almost 3,000 parcels of food were collected and distributed.

"Last year was great," said Senior Airman Sean Flansbaum, founder and co-director of the drive. "We hope to do even better this year. We should be able to collect over 4,000 food items.

"We do need more people to volunteer to help, however. Many of the people who helped last year are no longer around. We have great people helping now but we need more."

Donation boxes will be placed in various buildings around base starting Nov. 4.

For more information or to volunteer to help, call Airman Flansbaum at 298-5437 or email him at sean.flansbaum@laughlin.af.mil.

The inside
Scoop

Viewpoints:

The 47th Communications Squadron commander examines why people join the Air Force.

Page 2

News:

Former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force visits Laughlin.

Page 4

Lifestyles:

Airman tell what it was like being deployed in Oman in the on going deployment series.

Page 10

Countdown to ORI:

7 weeks



Commanders' Corner

By Maj. Arthur Price

47th Communications Squadron commander

There are many reasons to serve

During my daily interactions with my airman, I often wonder, "Why are they here?"

It's a simple question I hope airmen and young officers can reflect upon and "reblue" all of us about being in the military.

Some of you might say to fly, for an education or to see the world; but let me propose this hypothesis – a calling.

Yes, a calling, a charge by your inner spirit that motivated your inner being to be part of the greatest Air Force, defending the greatest country in the world. Think about that for a moment.

Since taking command of the 47th Communications Squadron I've made some reassurances of why I'm here. For a kid that grew up in a small town in West Virginia, this Air Force has been more than I ever expected. I continuously reflect on

where I've been so I can see the road ahead of me more clearly – learn from the past experiences to prepare for the future. With that, I take the opportunity to meet all my troops face to face. But there were a few occasions that prompted me to reflect on what I ask my airmen, "Why are you here?" A simple question but deep rooted in one's personal beliefs and spirit.

This really hit home with me last August when I interviewed a new airman to my unit. He seemed a little older than most of the young airmen I speak with. I came to find out he was 31 years old and worked in New York City about a year ago. When I asked him what brought him into the Air Force he replied, "After September 11th, I felt it was my duty to join the military." For the first time in a while, I was speechless, then I extended my hand to this airman and told him thank you.

As he left the office I pondered as to why I came in, back in 1987. There was no national crisis, no war on terrorism, nor did I have the situational awareness to forecast that we would be going in the Persian Gulf in three years. No, I joined because I wanted to be apart of the world's greatest team, the United States Air Force.

Why are you here? Ever ask that question? Is it a calling, a charge for respect of your family, money, pride, patriotism, last ditch effort to correct your life?

No matter what the reason I want to thank each of you for being part of my team, our team, here at Laughlin training the best pilots in the Air Force, supporting the best Air Force in the world. And the next time you see "old glory" run up the flagpole at reveille or brought down at retreat, know that the team of the past, present and future is here for one reason... freedom.

Domestic violence awareness necessary

By Capt. William Moore

47th Medical Operations Squadron
life skills flight commander

The walls are thin enough that you can hear your neighbors, especially when they start shouting like they are tonight. "But these folks are our friends," you rationalize, and haven't there been times when you got a little rowdy? You wouldn't want anybody getting involved in your personal problems. So the best thing to do is ignore it, right? What if it gets a little carried away and things start flying?

Domestic violence continues to be an unfortunate growing social concern. Because of the concern in both civilian and military communities, October has been designated as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. As social awareness evolved, this Day of Unity soon became a special week, and in October 1987 it became a complete month.

To recognize the effect that domestic violence has on society, a variety of activities are now conducted at the local, state, and national levels. As a way of participating in this awareness, the Amistad Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center of Del Rio and the Laughlin Air Force Base Family Advocacy Program are coming together to demonstrate support of preventing domestic violence, remembering past victims, and providing support to those men, women and children who are currently af-

fected by harmful relationships.

It is unfortunate, but true that there are thousands of deaths occurring as a result of domestic violence each year. It is also important to note abuse can be physical, emotional or sexual in nature, or a combination of these. Please look over the following questions and think about how you are being treated and how you treat your partner.

Does your partner...

- Embarrass or make fun of you in front of your friends or family?
- Put down your accomplishments or goals?
- Make you feel like you are unable to make decisions?
- Use intimidation or threats to gain compliance?

See 'Violence,' page 2



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Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to:
timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or
yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil.

***“Excellence
– not our
goal, but our
standard.”***

– 47th FFW motto



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

MEMORANDUM FOR 47th FLYING TRAINING WING

FROM: 47 FTW/CC

SUBJECT: Combined Federal Campaign

“Dare to Care”... three simple words of hope that are the theme of this year’s Combined Federal Campaign. And just like:

We, the people
Duty, Honor, Country
I pledge allegiance
Integrity, Service, Excellence

These three words can have a profound impact on the lives they touch.

When President Kennedy first established the Combined Federal Campaign in 1961, I suspect even a person of his great vision did not foresee the impact this program would have on the lives of people worldwide. For example, just a few dollars per month can provide meals for senior citizens that otherwise might go without. Just a few more dollars could feed families, or provide clean water, shelter or clothing to those in need. In fact, through the CFC, you can personalize your contribution by giving as little or as much as you wish to any of literally thousands of worthy causes.

So members of Team XL, I ask that you consider the CFC as a way for you to make a difference for the better. And as always, I ask that you “Dare to Care.”

DANIEL P. WOODWARD, Colonel, USAF
Commander

Actionline

298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.



Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training
Wing commander

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| AAFES | 298-3176 |
| Accounting and Finance | 298-5204 |
| Civil Engineer | 298-5252 |
| Civilian Personnel | 298-5299 |
| Commissary | 298-5815 |
| Dormitory manager | 298-5213 |
| Equal Employment Opportunity | 298-5879 |
| FWA hotline | 298-4170 |
| Hospital | 298-6311 |
| Housing | 298-5904 |
| Information line | 298-5201 |
| Legal | 298-5172 |
| Military Equal Opportunity | 298-5400 |
| Military Personnel | 298-5073 |
| Public Affairs | 298-5988 |
| Security Forces | 298-5900 |
| Services | 298-5810 |

Airmanship

Intended to help all airmen articulate the
Air Force’s vision of aerospace power

Parallel operations

The term parallel operations describes the idea that aerospace operations are most effective when they create effects that help achieve different levels of objectives at the same time.

‘Violence,’ from page 2

- Tell you that you are nothing without them?
- Treat you roughly – grab, push, pinch, shove or hit you?
- Call you several times a night or show up to make sure you are where you said you would be?
- Use drugs or alcohol as an excuse for saying hurtful things or abusing you?
- Blame you for how they feel or act?
- Pressure you sexually for things you aren’t ready for?
- Make you feel like there “is no way out” of the relationship?
- Prevent you from doing things you want - like spending time with your friends or family?
- Do You...
- Sometimes feel scared of how your partner will act?
- Constantly make excuses to other people for

your partner’s behavior?

- Believe that you can help your partner change if only you changed something about yourself?
- Try not to do anything that would cause conflict or make your partner angry?
- Feel like no matter what you do, your partner is never happy with you?
- Stay with your partner because you are afraid of what your partner would do if you broke up?

Talk to someone if any of these things are happening to you or a loved one. Without help, the violence could continue or get worse. To help the Del Rio and Laughlin communities in domestic violence prevention and intervention, please call 911 at any sight of violence in progress. If you have any questions, or know of someone who is afraid of, or is possibly being hurt by his or her partner, call the Laughlin Air Force Base Family Advocacy Program at 298-6422. Remember, the cycle of violence can be broken.

Retired CMSAF visits Laughlin

By Airman 1st Class Timothy J. Stein
Editor

An Air Force legend visited Laughlin Tuesday and spoke to several groups on base about the past and present of the Air Force.

Retired Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Robert Gaylor has been going around the country giving these kind of speeches off and on for the last 30 years.

“I first got into public speaking around 1972,” said Chief Gaylor. “Now I do it nonstop. This is the 37th base I’ve visited this year. I already have bookings for next year.”

Chief Gaylor started his 31-year career in 1948 as a

security policeman. He ended his career as the fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

“I didn’t plan on making a career out of it,” Chief Gaylor said. “It kind of just happened. I just took it one year at a time.”

After retiring from the Air Force in 1979, the chief went to work in insurance and devoted much of his free time to speaking engagements at military installations.

“[The reason I do the public speaking] is that I love to meet the troops,” said Chief Gaylor. “I’ve done enough looking at things. I

See ‘Gaylor,’ page 4



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Fire safety...

Airman 1st Class Randall Neece, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron, fire protection apprentice, shows children from the child development center fire safety tips at the fire department's open house Oct. 9.

ORI preparation

Equipment and Serviceability – Randomly inspect your shop and support equipment for serviceability, and to determine if you have been taking proper care of the assets you have been entrusted with. Is it being properly stored, used and maintained? Spot check bench stock and shop support stock to see if you are properly controlling resources.

Are all your plans and contingency checklists up-to-date? Are unit control center and disaster control group members trained? Does everyone know how to use the checklists? Does everyone know how to use the checklists? Does everyone know what to do if an exercise kicks off? Where is your assigned shelter?

ESC Harvest Social

The Enlisted Spouses Club is holding a harvest social with games and prizes donated from home businesses from Laughlin at 7 p.m. at 8092A Kenyon St. All enlisted spouses and single active duty personnel are invited to attend.

For more information, call 298-2180.

ALS class graduation

The Laughlin Airman Leadership School class

Newslines

02-08 will hold a graduation ceremony at 6 p.m. Oct. 22 at Club Amistad.

The menu will consist of chicken cordon bleu, salad, roll and dessert. The cost is \$13 for club members and \$16 for nonmembers, R.S.V.P. by close-of-business today.

For more information, call 298-4375.

Awards luncheon

The 47th Flying Training Wing third quarter awards luncheon is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Oct. 23 at Club XL.

All nominees should R.S.V.P. by calling 298-4450 or 298-4398. Commanders and distinguished visitors should R.S.V.P. by calling 298-4709 or 298-4710. The last day to R.S.V.P. is Wednesday. All others wishing to attend should contact their first sergeants.

For more information, call Master Sgt. James Martin at 298-5406.

Medical group training

The 47th Medical Group will be closed for training from 1 to 5 p.m. Oct. 24. The training is

essential to maintain the medical group's ability to respond to mission and wartime requirements.

During the designated training times:

- The pharmacy will be closed. Please plan to pick up an prescriptions or refills before 12:30 p.m. or the following day.
- Afternoon dental and medical sick call will not be available.
- The Nurse Triage Line will not be available.
- The Tricare Service Line will not be available.
- The Tricare Service Center will be open.
- If you have a medical emergency, report to the Val Verde Regional Medical Center Emergency Room.

- For other care, call 1-800-406-2832

For details, call Capt. Dawnita Parkinson at 298-6309.

Women's health luncheon

A women's health luncheon is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 25 at the Fiesta Center. A light lunch will be served and those attending will receive a t-shirt and educational materials. Men are welcome to attend and learn about pertinent health issues affecting their spouses, mothers or other significant women in their lives.

For more information, call the Health and Wellness Center at 298-6464.

‘Gaylor,’ from page 4

want to meet the people.”

When he meets the troops, Chief Gaylor said he likes to envision himself as a link to the past. He likes to teach people how the Air Force got to where it is today.

While the mission of the Air Force remains the same, protect the country, there are two major differences in the Air Force today as opposed to his time, the chief said.

“The level of training received and the technology available are both so advanced,” said Chief Gaylor. “It is by far the greatest difference now compared to when I was working.”

Civilian companies are looking for military trained people for the work force now which wasn’t always the case, said Chief Gaylor.

Another difference he has noticed is the reason why people join the military. Many people in the past joined because they

had to for one reason or another, he said. Now people join for a sense of duty, education or discipline.

“The motive for joining is different now,” said Chief Gaylor. “It is more ‘above the board.’”

There are a few problem areas airmen need to focus on however, said the chief.

“There are three things airmen need to really concentrate on,” said Chief Gaylor. “Physical fitness, financial fitness and training.

“Training can sometimes be difficult. I would train for things I never had to do. I had to learn riot control. I never once had to control a riot but I was trained for it if it ever happened.”

On a whole, Chief Gaylor said he believes the Air Force will be ready for whatever it has to face in the future.

“This force is just to well trained not to be,” said he said. “We just have to ‘continue the march.’”

New edition of Air Force TV News
airs on commander’s channel

AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS – A new edition of Air Force Television News is now airing on the commander’s access channel, cable channel 34, Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The following are what will be showing.

The vital supply line for ground troops still skirmishing with Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan is the subject of an Eye on the Air Force in the latest edition of Air Force Television News.

For this report, Staff Sgt. Leigh Bellinger flew to Bagram, Afghanistan, with an Air Force Reserve crew from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., one of dozens of such missions to keep the troops in the country supplied with everything from beans to bullets.

Staff Sgt. Bronwyn

Tardo was on hand in South Dakota as the Air Force turned over a Minuteman II missile silo to the National Park Service as a reminder to the public of the Cold War and how such installations helped end it.

Staff Sgts. Joe Wallace and Pachari Lutke examined two areas of training in the Air Force: Sergeant Wallace went to Tinker AFB, Okla., to report on a new civilian-based training program for Airborne Warning and Control System crews, and Sergeant Lutke traveled to Robins AFB, Ga., to report on how the Air Force is trying to overcome a potential boom operator shortage with accelerated training in that career field.

Staff Sgt. Bill Scherer “dug” into an unusual new role for worms at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, in a

precedent-setting program that uses the wrigglers to chow down on food waste and old newspapers to produce nitrogen-rich fertilizer.

Air Force Television News is a biweekly production of Air Force News Service.

It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide, and is seen on more than 700 cable television outlets nationwide. It is also available on the Internet at www.af.mil. The program can also be seen on The Pentagon Channel and is also available from numerous Reserve and Junior ROTC units. It is the only military production offered with closed captioning.

Viewers can comment on the program by sending e-mail to: aftvnews@afnews.af.mil.

Recycle this
newspaper.

All services facilities on base to become smoke-free Dec. 7

Compiled from staff reports

There’s a healthy change happening at Laughlin Air Force Base. As of Dec. 7 all Services facilities which are not smoke-free will be.

This executive order will affect the bowling center, Club Amistad, Club XL and the lounge at the golf course.

According to the American Lung Association, the best thing about smoke-free air is what it doesn’t have. Secondhand smoke is a Group A carcinogen that contains over 4,000 substances, 40 of which are linked to cancer. These include formaldehyde, cyanide, arsenic, carbon monoxide, methane and benzene.

Secondhand smoke causes over 3,000 lung cancer deaths annually and is linked to other lung diseases in nonsmoking adults. Each year, 150,000 to 300,000 children suffer from bronchitis and pneumonia caused by secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is responsible for 35,000 heart disease deaths in annually.

Additionally, nonsmoking workplaces are

both healthier and more productive. Smoking costs the U.S. \$150 billion in health care costs and lost productivity annually. This includes \$75 billion in direct health care costs and \$82 billion in lost productivity costs.

Efforts are underway globally to protect non-smokers from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Increased public awareness of the dangers of sec-

ondhand smoke has led to the regulation of smoking in public buildings.

Many cities are instituting smoking bans, and 48 states have regulated smoking in public buildings. Executive Order 13058 mandates a smoke-

free environment for all federal facilities by Dec. 7.

“Nonsmokers will find the Services Facilities to be a much more enjoyable, family-friendly place,” said Nicholas A. Campiglia, 47th Services division chief. “If you have not visited our facilities before because of the smoke, we encourage you to come and experience our smoke-free environment.”

For more information, call Chip Faver at 298-5906.

“Nonsmokers will find the services facilities to be a much more enjoyable, family-friendly place.”

– Nicholas A. Campiglia
47th Services Division chief



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Vincent Parker

Good morning, Incirlik!

INCIRLIK AIR FORCE BASE, Turkey – Actor and comedian Robin Williams is greeted by Staff Sgt. Kerry Warren and his partner, Xasco, during a visit Monday. Williams viewed a working dog demonstration by the 39th Security Forces Squadron and met with wing people, family members and deployed airmen supporting operations Northern Watch and Enduring Freedom. He also performed a one-hour comedy show and signed autographs.

Senior leaders expand anthrax vaccine program

By Staff Sgt.
C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON – Air Force senior leaders recently approved expansion of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program within the service, meaning more servicemembers will be asked to roll up their sleeves in the near future.

The Air Force Anthrax Vaccine Implementation Plan was distributed to commanders Oct. 11, said Maj. Linda Bonnel of the Air Force Medical Operations Agency.

“Installations are to implement the Air Force plan immediately and expand anthrax vaccination to include Priority II personnel,” Bonnel said.

Priority II personnel are military members, emergency-essential Department of Defense civilians and specified contractors assigned or deployed to designated higher-threat areas for more than 15 consecutive days, Bonnel said. Priority I personnel, who recently began receiving the vaccine, include those in designated special mission units and anthrax vaccine manufacturing and DOD research personnel.

Higher-threat areas include countries primarily in Southwest Asia, the major said.

Individuals who fall within the Priority II description will be notified of their need for the anthrax vaccine, Bonnel said. The public health office at each installa-

tion will maintain a complete list of the most current higher-threat areas and will ensure troops receive all required force health protection measures prior to deployment.

“The health and safety of our troops is our No. 1 concern,” Bonnel said. “Vaccination offers a layer of protection – in addition to antibiotics and other measures – that is needed for certain members of the armed forces.”

The Food and Drug Administration has determined the current anthrax vaccine is safe and effective in protecting against all forms of anthrax infection, a scientific conclusion that was recently supported by the Institute of Medicine, Bonnel said.

The FDA-licensed schedule for the anthrax vaccine calls for doses at intervals of two and four weeks after the initial dose, followed by doses at the six, 12 and 18 month points, plus annual boosters.

The AVIP was first started in 1998, primarily for those personnel assigned or deployed to Southwest Asia and Korea. Most recently, administration of the vaccine has been restricted to a relatively small number of personnel as part of a slowdown due to production and supply issues. Since these issues have been resolved, the program is being reintroduced per recent DOD policy. For more information about the anthrax vaccine, check the official DOD Web site at www.anthrax.mil.

Do the world a favor and recycle this newspaper.

Pentagon helps in hunt for sniper

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Pentagon has been enlisted to support efforts to catch a deadly sniper who has preyed on metro Washington residents since Oct. 2.

The FBI, the lead government law enforcement agency in the case, recently asked Department of Defense officials for help in stopping the elusive shooter, who has killed nine persons and wounded two, DOD spokesman Marine Corps Maj. Ben Owens said Wednesday.

The latest victim, an FBI employee, was shot Monday night in a shopping center parking lot in suburban Falls Church, Va.

On Tuesday, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld approved the FBI’s request for support, which involves the use of aircraft, Owens said.

“We provide help when we have some sort of unique capability that they don’t have and it wouldn’t really be feasible for them to get overnight.”

– **Marine Corps Maj.**

Ben Owens

*Department of Defense
spokesman*

The major said the FBI and other law enforcement agencies involved in the case know what they can and should discuss regarding the case, and they are being careful not to tip off the sniper by saying too much.

He stressed the DOD has gone “to great lengths” to comply with all

the laws in providing support to capture the shooter. The laws include the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, which prohibits the military from conducting civilian law enforcement, he added.

Owens noted the law permits DOD to give training, equipment and some other types of support to law enforcement agencies, when requested. Justice Department and DOD lawyers are working the support issue “to ensure that we’re going to do this right,” he said.

The major said civilian law enforcement authorities are essentially asking to use something in the DOD’s inventory that would help them to get the sniper.

“We provide help when we have some sort of unique capability that they don’t have and it wouldn’t really be feasible for them to get overnight,” he said.

Iraqi site hit

WASHINGTON – Coalition aircraft hit a command and control center near al Kut Tuesday in retaliation for Iraqi actions.

U.S. Central Command officials said the Iraqis fired surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery at the coalition planes. Coalition aircraft dropped precision-guided munitions on the control center at 6:15 a.m. EDT.

This is the second time this month that aircraft patrolling the Southern No-fly Zone have attacked al Kut, which is about 100 miles southeast of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. On Oct. 1, U.S. aircraft bombed a mobile radar operating in the area.

It is the sixth strike this month in the Southern area. There was one strike in the Northern No-fly Zone.

If you know of or suspect Fraud, Waste and Abuse, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.

Deployed to Oman:

Airmen share their experiences being deployed

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Conde

Staff writer

In today's rapidly deploying Air Force, airmen have to be ready to go anywhere at anytime. Many airmen have carried out significant missions in Middle Eastern countries and many more will be sent there to continue enforcing the mission of the United States.

In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Staff Sgt. Hector Rodriguez, 47th Medical Support Squadron laboratory journeyman departed for Masirah Island, Oman in April to serve as a supervisor for 13 Third-Country National escorts.

During a normal duty day, Sergeant Rodriguez's squadron commander informed him that he was needed to fill a position at a deployment site, Masirah Island, and he had less than three weeks to prepare for the deployment.

"I had never heard of Masirah Island, so I didn't know what to think," he said.

With three weeks to prepare, finances were organized, a current will was prepared, a power of attorney was set in place, the needed attire was ordered and all the out-processing paperwork was handled.

Personnel Support for Contingency Operations assisted with all the needed preparation for deployment, said Sergeant Rodriguez.

"[On the way there,] I felt so proud to be a part of the U.S. Armed Forces," he said. "I was thinking of my fellow New Yorkers and all [who] died on Sept. 11.

"I had mixed emotions, he continued. I was excited, but at the same time, I thought about leaving my family behind and missing out on my sons' and daughter's baseball season. Still, I was ready to work."

According to Sergeant Rodriguez, it took some time to adjust to his new surroundings. The strong winds that came in from the

ocean brought in a very dusty environment, which altered the normalities of everyday life, but being a part of such an important mission replaced the weariness with pride.

"When we first arrived at our tents we had to dust everything," he said. "We had [to drink] bottled water. We managed to put [wood] floors down in the tents too. We did the best with what we had.

"We tend to take many things for granted until we go through an experience like deployment."

To ensure the mission was accomplished, Sergeant Rodriguez ensured the TCNs who entered the base didn't have any contraband, weapons or anything that could compromise the security of the base.

"I definitely feel I helped with the mission," he said. "[As a] TCN escort, you are the 'first line of defense,' along with the security forces. Anything or anybody [who] goes into the base is your responsibility."

Every single member who is sent to these remote locations is chosen for a specific area in contribution to the base's mission, said Tech Sgt. Bob Hughes, 47th Operations Support Squadron air traffic controller.

In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Sergeant Hughes departed for Thumrait, Oman, in March 2002, to work as a single seven-level air traffic controller.

"Because of the special identifiers needed, I was the most qualified," he said. "I hadn't ever been to that part of the world, but once I went through the out-processing, I found out a lot."

According to Sergeant Hughes, research is important. Information is available through the office of special investigations, the Internet and speaking with people who have been deployed before.

"Always have your deployment gear up-to-date and ready, including all of your financial items, wills,



Oman facts:

Area comparative: Slightly smaller than Kansas

Climate: Dry desert; hot, humid along coast; hot, dry interior; strong southwest summer monsoon in far south

Terrain: Central desert plain, rugged mountains in North and South.

Natural Resources: Petroleum, copper, asbestos, some marble, limestone, chromium, gypsum

Population: 2,713,462

Religions: Ibadhi Muslim 75 percent, Sunni Muslim, Shi'a Muslim, Hindu

Languages: Arabic (official), English, Baluchi, Urdu, Indian dialects

Government type: Monarchy

Capital: Muscat

Exports: Petroleum, fish, metals, textiles

(Map and facts courtesy of The World Factbook 2002)

power of attorney and other things you think might be pertinent," he said.

Sergeant Hughes spent 42 hours on a chartered air carrier before he arrived at his destination.

Though it was a very dry and hot desert, people maintained professionalism and continued to do their jobs with the utmost pride and since of urgency, he said.

"Working as a single seven-level [in] operations, I kept mission-essential aircraft, coming in and out on a daily basis, separated from each other and ensured they continued running properly," he said.

While the mission comes first, there is still opportunity to go to the gym, watch TV, or keep in touch with friends or family back home through letters or e-mail, he said.

"I was excited to get back home

to see my three kids and beautiful wife," said Sergeant Hughes. "Still, there wasn't a day that went by that I didn't thank God for the United States of America. We have the best nation in the world.

"I think if we have a good attitude and look forward to our deployments, we'll get to experience something that we'll never forget," he said. "I know I'll never forget my deployments and will cherish all the new friendships and exciting things that I've been allowed to do for my country. I always felt patriotic, but when you're able to contribute to such a worthy cause, your patriotism grows as well as your respect for those who have died for the same causes we still fight for. Freedom isn't free. It comes with responsibilities and sacrifices that we all should be aware of and respect."

Lackland turns to ‘windtricity’ as energy source

The Lackland answer to a Department of Defense initiative is blowing in the wind.

Under a DOD-wide plan to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, the base will use renewable energy by buying wind-generated electricity.

Lackland receives \$54,000 for the first year of this renewable energy source project, which is part of a five-year, \$500,000 program included in the Fiscal 2002 Defense Appropriation Bill.

“We’re buying a renewable energy source called ‘windtricity’ from a wind

power farm in West Texas,” said Elias Abdulahad, a base utility engineer with the 37th Civil Engineer Squadron’s maintenance engineering section and Lackland’s point of contact with CPS. “Since the electricity is generated by wind power, there is never a worry about whether we are going to run out of wind.”

The Defense Department has been directed to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels by 7 percent by the year 2010. Other renewable energy options include solar and hydrogen energy.

Consumers will not notice a difference between energy provided by “windtricity” and normal electricity, Abdulahad said. “You can’t tell one from the other.”

Wind power fits well into the nation’s energy picture, he said. It is renewable energy, a natural resource that is constantly replenished and never runs out. From Lackland’s point of view, a renewable energy source is good for the environment.”

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



(Courtesy photo)

Part of the electricity flowing to consumers at Lackland Air Force Base comes from these windmills near Iraan, Texas. The three-bladed rotor assemblies have a diameter of 231 feet, longer than the wingspan of a Boeing 747-400.

Commissary gift certificates now available

FORT LEE, Va. - Want to ensure that family and friends are getting a bountiful dinner this holiday season? Worry no more. Commissary gift certificates are now available online through the Defense Commissary Agency's Web site. The new gift certificates can be purchased 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. It's all through a link at www.commissaries.com.

"We are continually seeking ways to improve customer service and we hope this program proves to be a great addition to the commissary benefit," said DeCA Director Major General Michael P. Wiedemer. "The certificates are ideal for family and friends to give to young service members and their families as gifts," he said.

"For instance, parents living in New York can purchase one for the upcoming holidays or other occasions and 'give the gift of groceries' to their son or daughter wherever they are serving their country, as long as there is a commissary available to them." Anyone may purchase the gift certificates with a U.S. credit card, but only authorized commissary shoppers can redeem them at the store.

The new customer service is made possible through a business agreement with CertifiChecks, Inc. DeCA does not derive any income from the agreement.

The commissary gift certificates, available in a variety of denominations ranging from \$5 to \$100, may also be purchased in the

United States through a toll free number at 1-877-770-GIFT. Purchasers overseas should use the link provided.

Order forms will also be available at commissary customer service desks or can be downloaded from the commissary Web page as an additional option. The forms may be filled out and sent by mail or FAX to CertifiChecks. Customers may pay with a check if they use the order form.

A standard charge of \$4.95 pays CertifiChecks' costs for printing, mailing and handling of up to 20 certificates – as long as all are going to the same address. Typical delivery of certificates is 4- to 10-days.

"We've been seeking a gift certificate program for some time now," said Patrick

Nixon, DeCA's deputy director, "and this program has the portability we have not been able to offer in the past."

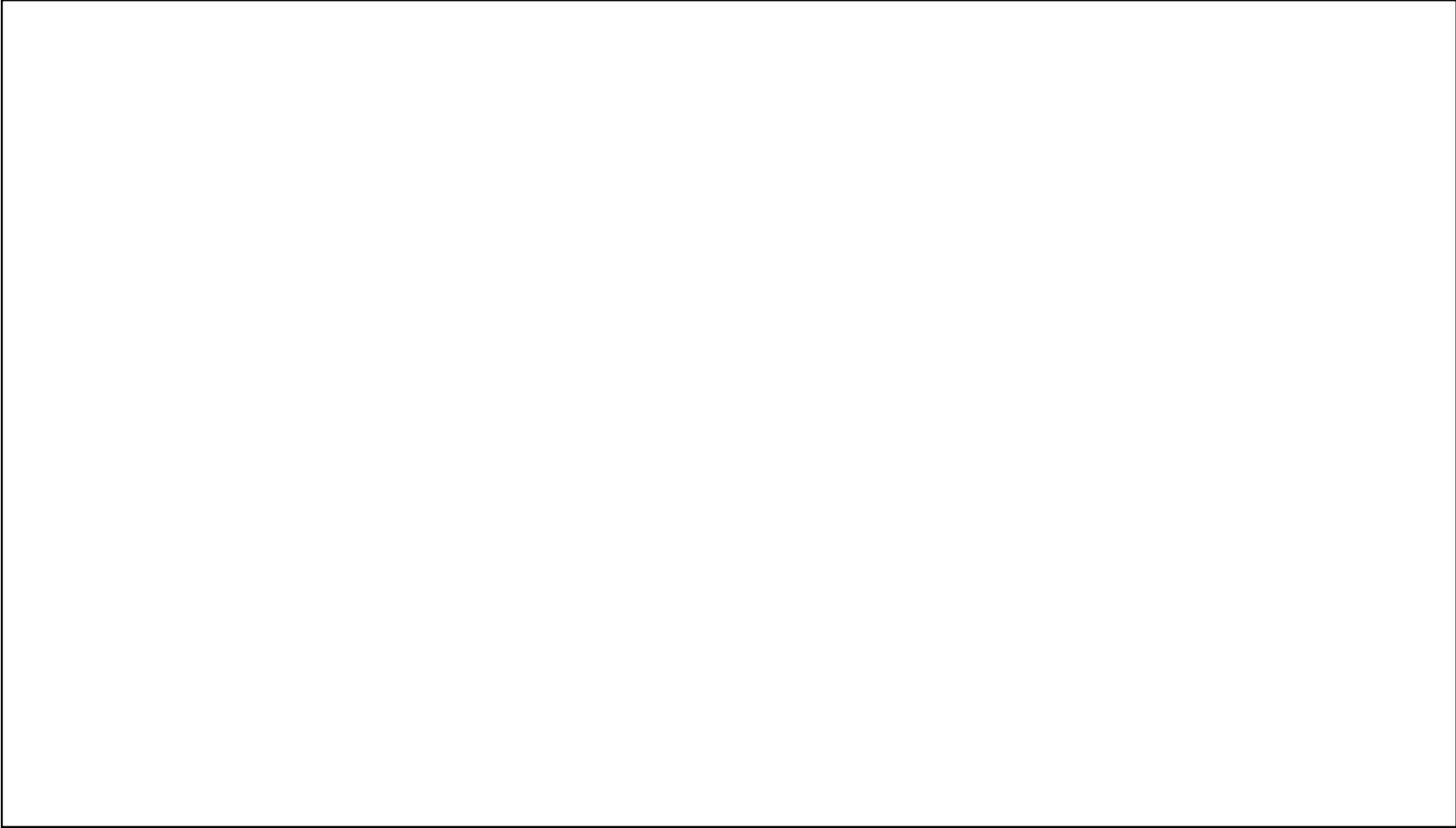
Commissary gift "cards" have been available for sale in stores since fall of 2001 and have been well-received by installation programs such as food banks or chaplain funds, as well as by commissary vendors to use for customer shopping sprees. But, the major drawback for the gift cards has been lack of portability – they had to be spent in the same commissary in which they were purchased. "The new gift certificates are good at any commissary location worldwide," said Nixon.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates nearly 280 commissaries worldwide, providing groceries to military personnel, retirees

and their families. Authorized commissary patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings worth more than \$2,400 annually for a family of four.

A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.

(Courtesy of Defense Commissary Agency)



The *XLer*

Hometown: Avon, N.Y.
Family: Wife, Christy;
son; Cody
Time at Laughlin: 17
months
Time in service: 18 years
Greatest accomplishment:
Convincing my wife to
marry me 14 and a half
years ago
Hobbies: All kinds of
sports, hunting and fishing
Bad habit: Procrastinating
Favorite films: *Braveheart*
Favorite musicians: Tim
McGraw
**If you could spend one
hour with any person, who
would it be and why?** My



Photo by Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde

Tech Sgt. Guy Wells
47th Communications Squadron
NCO in charge plans flight

*Chapel
Schedule*



Catholic

- Saturday* ● 5 p.m., Mass
Sunday ● 9:30 a.m., Mass
● 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture
Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall
Thursday ● 6 p.m., Choir
Reconciliation ● By appointment
Religious Education
● 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

- Friday* ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community
Fellowship
Every day ● 12 to 1 p.m., prayer hour

Protestant

- Saturday* ● 6 p.m., Singles Bible study
Sunday ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
● 11 a.m., General worship
● 6:30 p.m., Officer Christian Fellow-
ship, call 298-2238 for details.
Wednesday ● 10 a.m., Women's Bible study,
children welcome
● 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

**For more information on chapel events
and services, call 298-5111.**



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New medical procedure patches holes in hearts

By 2nd Lt. Mike Chillstrom

59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE – Wilford Hall Medical Center is part of a select group of hospitals in the United States offering a revolutionary new heart procedure that is changing the lives of patients and cardiologists alike.

The procedure, called percutaneous atrial septal defect closure, uses innovative technology to patch holes in the heart, called atrial septal defects.

“I’m very excited that we’re the first hospital in the Department of Defense to offer this procedure,” said Maj. (Dr.) Richard A. Krasuski, staff cardiologist and director of cardiovascular research. “We really enjoy being on the cutting edge of invasive cardiology at Wilford Hall.”

An atrial septal defect is the most common form of congenital heart disease in adults. The defect results in excess blood flow to the right side of the heart, which can cause numerous subsequent health problems, including heart failure, sick lungs, stroke and rhythm disturbances.

Previously, fixing these defects required general anesthesia, incisions on the chest and occasionally lengthy rehabilitation periods. Dr. Krasuski said the new procedure allows people to return quickly to their pre-operative lifestyle, often with more vigor.

“Our patients seem to be very satisfied with their results,” Dr. Krasuski said.

The procedure uses two

high-tech instruments. The first is an intracardiac echocardiogram, an ultrasound device that’s inserted through a leg vein and passed into the heart that allows the operators to continuously view the defect and safely insert and release the closure device. The second instrument is the closure device itself.

The closure device is a wire mesh basket-like object, made of nickel and titanium, that’s filled with polyester fabric. An invasive cardiologist is able to use the device through catheters, long hollow tubes, that are only slightly larger than a pencil lead.

According to Dr. Krasuski, after insertion into the septal defect, the device completely seals with the body’s own tissue. “It’s remarkable,” he said. “Tissue grows right across the device. It’s been very well designed.”

The procedure lasts about 90 minutes and requires only minor sedation for patient comfort.

Atrial septal defects occur about two times per 1,000 births, and about one-third of defects heal naturally by age two. Dr. Krasuski said the overwhelming majority of defects are independent of family history.

“Symptoms may not show up until really late in life and may be so subtle that the patient doesn’t even realize a problem exists,” Dr. Krasuski said.

Typically, the defect is noticed when a person is younger, but the symptoms can be very subtle, the doctor said.

Keep teeth healthy this Halloween

**Capt. (Dr.)
Steven Ledwig**
*47th Aeromedical Dental
Squadron*

Another year has passed and the time for trick or treating is right around the corner. Halloween is that time of the year when kids go door to door in attempts to gather as much candy as possible. It is a fun time of the year and one in which everyone should enjoy. One thing to keep in mind is our children's teeth. Our children's teeth are

at a period in which they are very susceptible to plaque, bacteria, and demineralization, or the breaking down of tooth structure. This occurs when the teeth have repeated bouts of bacteria acid eating away at the enamel surface until eventually, decay forms. Staying away from sweets, sticky foods and candy as well as brushing and flossing daily will help to keep teeth strong and healthy. This holiday kids will eat candy and have lots of

fun doing so. By limiting the amount of treats and duration of eating them, decay can be prevented. Brushing or rinsing after eating treats will also help in the strength and health of the teeth. Have a wonderful and safe Halloween. Remember that just one cavity can begin the breakdown process of a tooth that must last you a lifetime. If you want to celebrate many more Halloweens, you must be smart and take care of your teeth.

Sportslines

Aerobics programs

The XL Fitness Center has a variety of aerobics programs available throughout the week at different times to suit all fitness levels. Step, Spin, Cardio Kickboxing and Power Yoga classes are available for Laughlin people to attend. Monday – Friday classes are scheduled at 9 a.m., Monday – Thursday includes a noon and 5:30 p.m. class and Monday and Wednesday Power Yoga is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. All classes are free and conducted by well informed, certified instructors. For more information, schedules are available at the XL Fitness Center, or call 298-5251.

New exercise equipment

The XL Fitness Center has new boxing equipment available in the racquetball court, building 360, next door to the gym. The new speed bag and punching bag are available for use during the normal fitness center hours except when a Spin class is in session. For more information, call the XL Fitness Center at 298-5251.

Please recycle
this newspaper.

Football standings

| <u>AFC</u> | <u>W/L</u> |
|--------------|------------|
| CES | 4-2 |
| LSI | 3-2 |
| <u>NFC</u> | |
| Med GP | 3-0 |
| 86Rios Lobos | 3-1 |
| SFS | 0-3 |
| <u>XFL</u> | |
| OSS | 4-0 |
| CCS | 2-1 |
| LCSAM | 2-2 |

Thinking about
getting out?
Think again!

Call the career
assistance
adviser at
298-5456
for guidance.